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ENG 2009C-001: Literature and Human Values (Love, Hate, Obsession)

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English 2009C:001 Literature and Human Values (Love, Hate, and Obsession)

Fall 1998 Semester (CH 307)

Office Hours: MW 9-10:00

T/R 1:30-2:30

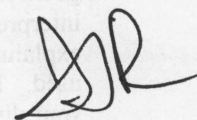
And by appointment

Fred Preston, Professor

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Home Phone: 345-3780



COURSE OBJECTIVES: As this is one of the courses in the Integrated Core (see page 51 of the 98-99 catalog), we will seek to achieve the goals established for the Core. Specifically, this course should help you increase your ability to listen, to read, to write, and to speak. You will accomplish all this through reading, enacting, and discussing some very fine literature—poetry, short stories, novels, plays, and films. I will attempt to challenge you through the course, but you must be a willing partner in order to achieve these goals and others set forth for the core courses. You will have to attend class, participate, ask questions, volunteer for reading, engage in performances, and work with others in writing groups, etc.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Much of the work in the class will take place during our meetings, which should help you prepare for papers, presentations, and exams. In addition, your absence could cause serious problems for a group with whom you might be working. If you must be absent, you should contact a classmate or me to learn what happened during your absence. Please note that after the first absence, points will be deducted from your participation grade for subsequent absences. Unless your absence is excused, you cannot make up work missed during that absence. Such work might include quizzes, exams, and other graded exercises. Bonus points will be added for perfect attendance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Read all assigned selections before class and be prepared to participate. Unannounced reading quizzes are likely. These consist of factual questions and may not be made up.

Prepare the required 5 reading responses. You may choose which 5 you wish to address from approximately 15 responses listed in the syllabus. Each response is worth 20 points. These are substantial responses to reading assignments. You may write two extra responses to replace those that receive low grades. Each response should be at least 2 typed double-spaced pages long (approximately 500 words). They may be longer. Responses will be collected at the beginning of the class period the day they are due. You must respond to all the reading selections assigned for a particular day unless I indicate otherwise. If you respond to only one of the, say two assigned selections, you will receive only half the points possible. I do not accept responses placed in my mailbox or under my door and will not be responsible for them. Papers must be given to me personally. I suggest that you keep a copy of all papers you turn in to me. It is good insurance for you. If you have an absence that is caused by "illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity," you must present legitimate evidence upon turning in your responses. Responses may be turned in early.

Each response is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. Your grade will be based on the quantity and quality of your response. The more substance your response demonstrates, the more points it will earn. To receive 12 or more points, your response must meet or exceed the required length and demonstrate that you have thought carefully about the reading assignment and have responded to it fully, energetically, specifically, imaginatively, critically, and independently. You should address as many aspects in the text as possible. Mere plot summary will receive approximately 12 points. I am looking for ideas/speculations and critical/analytical comments that are supported by details in the text. The questions at the end of the readings may help you in your response.

Prepare and write a formal paper (4--5 pages). This paper will be graded according to the "Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU's English Department," a copy of which will be given to you. The paper is worth 200 points.

Oral presentations and other performances:

A. Using the Heath Introduction to Poetry, choose a poem that deals with the theme of this course (love, hate, or obsession) and share your delight in this poem with the class. You may choose a poem from a

different source but you must clear it with me first. In your presentation 1) read the poem aloud to the class; 2) tell why you chose the poem; 3) explain the poem in a systematic way. You might tell what the poem is about as far as you are concerned and then demonstrate the reasoning that led you to your interpretation, say, line by line or stanza by stanza; 4) discuss the relevancy of the poem for this course; 5) explain the contribution of any figurative language and any specialized vocabulary the poet might have used. I would suggest that you consider making a transparency of your poem so the entire class can follow your discussion. The poetry presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and is worth 20 points.

B. Video assignment: along with 3 or 4 other classmates, choose a video that you believe clearly relates to the themes of this course. Preview the video and select 3--4 scenes which you consider significant in furthering the themes and mark them so that you can find them quickly when you discuss them before the class. Explain what you consider significant about the scenes; relate them to the rest of the film. Do not reveal the entire plot. Present your critique of the film. You might not reach total agreement (Siskel and Ebert often fail to agree), so that's okay for us, too.

Exams: We will have a mid-term (100 points) and a final (200 points).

English Department statement on plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--'The appropriation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING:

Reading Responses	100
Formal Paper	200
Mid-term exam	100
Poetry Presentation	25
Video Presentation	25
Class Participation	35
Final Exam	200
Reading Quizzes	25
Total	710
Perfect Attendance Bonus	10
Loss of points due to absences (5x N)	___
Loss of points from workshop (20)	___

Your final grade is based on the following grading scale applied to the number of points you have accumulated.

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Please ask questions if any instructions are not clear. If you do not ask, I will assume you understand. Throughout the term, there will be opportunities for office conferences on your responses, papers, and presentations. See me for an appointment. There may be times when I ask you to set an appointment for a conference.

Finally, if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR ENG 2009C:001
FALL 1998

Note: This schedule may change as the term progresses. Be certain to make changes as announced.

AUGUST

- 25 Introduction to class
- 27 Introduction to each other, formation of workshop groups,

SEPTEMBER

- 1 "A House of Flesh" (World 41-46) and "A Modern Love Letter" (World 58-64) Turn in a typed response [#1] which addresses both stories. Use the suggestions from "General Guidelines for Reading Responses" to help you consider your responses.
- 2 "The Thin Girl" (World 914-16) and "The Adventure of a Reader" (World 634-645). Turn in a response for both pieces [#2]. Refer to *the Guidelines*.
- 8 "The Hajii" (World 161-171), "The Happy Man" (World 46-52), and "Late Chrysanthemum" (World 298-314). Response paper due [#3].
- 10 "Spring Storm" (World 337-43), "The Intruder" (World 765-69), and "Sunday, Sunday" (World 859-73). Response paper due [#4].
- 15 Sam Shepard's Fool for Love (17-57). Response paper due [#5].
- 17 Watch Fool for Love on videotape (107 minutes)
- 22 Finish videotape of Fool for Love. Discuss differences between film and text.
- 24 "Patriotism" (World 316-335), "I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land" (World 652-3), and "The Land of Sad Oranges" (World 137-41). Turn in a response to all 3 pieces [#6].

29 "Their Eyes Were Watching God". (Chapters 1-9) Response due [#7].

OCTOBER

- 1 "Their Eyes" (Chapters 10-20). Discussion.
- 6 Response paper to Their Eyes as a whole [#8].
- 8 "Writing about Literature" and "Documentation" in World pp. 1113-1123 and "Writing About Likes and Dislikes" pp. 41-48 (Ch. 2) and Appendix B, pp. 292-298, in Writing Themes.
- 13 MID TERM. "Gatemans's Gift" (World 239-245) and "The Other Wife" (World 524-527). Respond to both stories. [#9].

15 "Another Evening at the Club" (World 53-58). Begin Othello

20 Othello

22 Othello

27 Othello

29 Othello

NOVEMBER

3 Workshop on Formal Paper. Bring a completed draft to class (If you do not bring a completed draft to class, you will lose 20 points on the final paper.) You must have responses from students in your workshop group.

5 Poetry Presentations

10 Poetry Presentations

12 Poetry Presentations

17 Poetry Presentations.. Formal Paper Due.

19 The Bluest Eye, 7-87. Response due [#10].

DECEMBER

1 The Bluest Eye, 88-160. Response due [#11].

3 The Awakening, 3-56. Response due [#12].

8 The Awakening, 56-109. Response due [#13].

10 The Awakening. Discussion. Discuss final.

FINAL TBA